

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An optical element, comprising:
a baseplate forming a first platform, wherein the perimeter of the first platform
5 forms a plurality of linear segments;
an element pivotably mounted on the first platform; and
a plurality of electrodes arranged on a surface of the first platform facing the
element, the plurality of electrodes being arranged according to the plurality of linear
segments.
- 10 2. The optical element of claim 1, wherein the element is pivotably mounted
through a pillar integral with the first platform.
3. The optical element of claim 1, wherein the element is pivotably mounted
through a pillar integral with the element.
4. The optical element of claim 1, wherein the element has a uniform thickness and
15 has a reflecting surface.
5. The optical element of claim 4, wherein the perimeter of the first platform forms
a polygon.
6. An optical element, comprising
a baseplate;
20 an element pivotably mounted on the baseplate, wherein the perimeter of the
element forms a plurality of linear segments; and

a plurality of electrodes arranged on a surface of the baseplate facing the element, the plurality of electrodes being arranged according to the plurality of linear segments.

7. The optical element of claim 6, wherein the element is pivotably mounted through a pillar integral with the baseplate.
- 5 8. The optical element of claim 6, wherein the element is pivotably mounted through a pillar integral with the element.
9. The optical element of claim 6, wherein the element has a uniform thickness and has a reflective surface.
- 10 10. The optical element of claim 9, wherein the perimeter of the element forms a polygon.
11. The optical element of claim 6, wherein the plurality of linear segments is greater than four.
12. The optical element of claim 6, wherein the plurality of linear segments is greater than five.
- 15 13. The optical element of claim 6, wherein the plurality of linear segments is greater than six.
14. The optical element of claim 2, wherein the pillar has a finite bending stiffness.

15. The optical element of claim 1, further including:

a second platform formed on the baseplate, wherein the second platform is formed between the first platform and the baseplate, the diameter of the second platform being greater than the diameter of the first platform, the perimeter of the second platform forming a plurality of linear segments which are parallel to the plurality of linear segments in the perimeter of the first platform, and

a plurality of electrodes arranged on a surface of the second platform facing the element, the plurality of electrodes on the surface of the second platform being arranged according to the plurality of linear segments in the perimeter of the second platform.

10 16. The optical element of claim 15, further comprising:

a third platform formed on the baseplate, wherein the third platform is formed between the second platform and the baseplate, the diameter of the third platform being greater than the diameter of the second platform, the perimeter of the third platform forming a plurality of linear segments which are parallel to the plurality of linear segments in the perimeter of the first platform, and

a plurality of electrodes arranged on a surface of the third platform facing the element, the plurality of electrodes on the surface of the third platform being arranged according to the plurality of linear segments in the perimeter of the third platform.